



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)
Program

Unionport Works MGP Site
1066 Zerega Avenue
Bronx, NY 10462

August 2019

SITE No. 203109 (OU2/OU3)
NYSDEC REGION 2

Where to Find Information:

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Castle Hill Library
947 Castle Hill Ave
(718) 824-3838

Bronx Community Board # 9
1967 Turnbull Avenue #7
Bronx, NY 10473
(718) 823-3034

Who to Contact:

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project-Related Questions
John Miller, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, Albany, NY
(518) 402-9589
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Health-Related Questions
Arunesh Ghosh
NYSDOH
Corning Tower, Albany, NY
(518) 402-7860
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**For more information about New York's
Manufactured Gas Plant Program, visit:**
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html>

Remedy Proposed for Manufactured Gas Plant Site Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a remedy being proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Unionport Works Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site ("site") located at 1066 Zerega Avenue in the Bronx, New York. Please see the map below for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified on the left of this page under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from August 21 through September 20. The proposed Remedial Action Work Plan is available for public review at the location(s) identified at the left of this page under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed on the left of this page under "Project-Related Questions." This plan outlines the proposed remedy for Operable Unit 2 (OU-2, off-site properties to the north of the site) and Operable Unit 3 (OU-3, the portion of Westchester Creek immediately east of the site). The remedy for Operable Unit 1 (OU-1) was selected in the Decision Document issued by the NYSDEC in June 2017. The main components of the remedy for OU-1 consisted of soil excavation and in-situ stabilization of contaminant source areas.

Proposed Remedy: The remedy proposed for the site includes:

For OU-2

- A remedial design program to develop the specifications for the construction of the remedy;
- Installation and operation of coal tar recovery wells along Watson Avenue to collect mobile contamination; and
- Implementation of a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long-term maintenance of the remedial systems.

For OU-3

- No Action due to the lack of impacts attributable to the site

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "Remedial Action Work Plan" submitted under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Program (MGP) by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("remedial party").

Next Steps: NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Decision Document" that will explain the details of the remedy. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

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NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description: The site is located at 1066 Zerega Avenue in the Unionport section of the Bronx, New York. The Zerega Holder MGP site (Site ID No. 203110) is located across the street to the west. The site is bordered by Watson Avenue to the north, Westchester Creek to the east, Blackrock Avenue to the south, and Zerega Avenue to the west. The site was occupied by an inactive Major Oil Storage Facility (MOSF) until its closure in late 2018. Above-grade structures remaining at the site include a large cinder block building and three smaller buildings all associated with the former MOSF. The former MOSF buildings are in active commercial use, housing a cut stone dealer and a metal fabrication business.

The site was divided into three operable units (OUs). An OU represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. The OUs established for this site include:

OU-1, the on-site source area located on the original footprint of the former MGP site;

OU-2, the off-site properties to the north of OU-1; and

OU-3, which consists of the portion of Westchester Creek immediately east of the site.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, 203110) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

Summary of the Investigation: The primary contaminants of concern at the site include MGP coal tar and the related volatile organic compounds benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX); and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Soil and groundwater samples were collected to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination at the site. The remedial investigation found saturated coal tar contamination in both subsurface soil and groundwater at depths ranging from 10 to 40 feet beneath the site. Closer to the surface, significant petroleum contamination was found, associated

with the more recent use of the site as an oil storage facility. The investigation found coal tar and elevated concentrations of BTEX and PAHs in the soils and/or groundwater at OU-2. The investigation of the adjacent Westchester Creek sediments (OU-3) did not identify any impacts associated with the Unionport Site.

MGP Program Overview: New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the MGP Program, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs at:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you better informed. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/ announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

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Site Location Map

